

Title IX: Education Amendment of 1972

Historical Perspective:

Title IX was signed by President Richard Nixon on June 23, 1972. The goal was to eliminate gender discrimination in schools; both in the academic realm and in athletic departments across the country. Title IX states:

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Before the implementation of Title IX, there was a notable gap between the genders, especially in athletics. Although, there was significant progress, in 1994 U.S. Sen. Carol Mosley-Braun and Rep. Cardiss Collins, democrats from Illinois, each sponsored two separate bills in their individual houses which would increase the enforcement of Title IX on the collegiate level. As a result of their efforts, in 1998 Congress passed the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act (EADA) as an amendment to the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965. Under this act, the Secretary of Education has the responsibility to gather financial and statistical information for both men's and women's sports.

While it was mandated at the collegiate level, at the high school level, schools were not held accountable for upholding EADA standards. It wasn't until 2003 when Sen. Olympia Snowe, a Republican from Maine, introduced Senate Bill 282, "High School Sports Information Collection Act of 2003", which would mandate high schools to follow similar rules set by the EADA.

What does it mean for California?

The California Education Code Sections 200 through 282 prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation or gender. Title IX requires that every school district or institution have a Title IX coordinator to whom concerns or complaints regarding sex discrimination can be made. Title IX has created a check system which allows legislators to hold schools accountable for the inequalities faced by women today.

Since the development and implementation of Title IX, the gap between the genders has significantly narrowed in scope.

For Further In-Depth Analysis on Title IX:

- “Oropeza ‘Title IX Compliance’ Bill Signed”. News Release
http://www.sen.ca.gov/womenscaucus/PRESS_RELEASES/Ab2295.pdf
- Bill AB2295, http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/01-02/bill/asm/ab_2251-2300/ab_2295_bill_20020929_chaptered.html
- Bill AB322, http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_0301-0350/ab_322_bill_20050929_chaptered.html
- United States Department of Education, “Title IX: 25 Years of Progress”
<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/TitleIX/title.html>
- United States Department of Labor (Title IX Amendment)
<http://www.dol.gov/oasam/regs/statutes/titleix.htm>
- United States Department of Justice (Manual of legal principals of Title IX)
<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/cor/coord/ixlegal.htm>